

24th instant reached me to day. Is it, you state that it has been officially reported that your foraging parties were "murdered" after capture, and you go on to say that you had "ordered a similar number of prisoners in our hands to be disposed of in like manner?" That is to say, you have ordered a number of Confederate soldiers to be murdered.

You characterize your order in preparatory terms, for the public voice, as in your own country, where it self, it dares to express itself in vindication of truth, honor or justice, will surely agree with you in pronouncing you guilty of murder, if your order is carried out.

Before dismissing this portion of your letter, I beg to assure you, that for every soldier of mine murdered by you, I should have executed at once two of yours, giving in all cases preference to any officer who may be in my hands.

In reference to the statement you make regarding the death of your foragers, I have only to say that I know nothing in that no orders given by me authorize the killing of prisoners after capture, and that I do not believe that my men did it in any years except under circumstances which it was perfectly legitimate and proper they should kill them. It is a part of the system of the thieves whom you designate as your foragers, to fire the dwellings of those citizens whom they have robbed.

To check this inhuman system, which is execrated by every civilized nation, I have directed my men to shoot down a ~~of~~ your men who are caught burning houses. This order shall remain in force as long as you disgrace the profession of arms by allowing your men to destroy private dwellings.

You say that I cannot, of course, question your right to forage on the country. It is a right as old as history. I do not, however, question this right. But there is a right older even than this, and one more inalienable—the right that every man has to defend his home, and to protect those who are dependent upon him. And from my heart I wish that every old man and boy in my country, who can fire a gun, would shoot you, as he would a wild beast, the murderer, the desolating their land, burning their homes, and insulting their women.

You are particular in defining and claiming war rights. May I ask if you enumerate among them the right to fire upon a defenceless city without notice; to burn that city to the ground after it had been surrendered by the authorities, who claimed, though in vain, that protection which is always accorded in civilized warfare to non-combatants; to fire the dwelling houses of citizens, after robbing them, and to perpetrate even darker crimes than these—crimes too black to be named?

You late permit me, you have not ordered, the committing of these offences against humanity as acts of war. You have made the city of Raleigh, without a word of warning, a field of battle for belligerents, who sent their troops on to private property, under the pretense of their being engaged in the service of God and their country, who have committed acts of wanton destruction and massacre. You have done this by the hand of your regulars, and of the rebels who call themselves Indians, scalped by you regardless of sex or age, but with such barbarity, that it has exceeded the power of the human mind to conceive. Your soldiers, in this regard, surpass, in sin, all the savages and pirates ever known.

In conclusion, I have only to request that you will never again say of my men "that they are not fit for the climate" or "not acquainted with you, you will then hear of it, and you will be compelled to withdraw from the country. In the meantime I shall hold six-sixty men in readiness to meet you when you are ready to re-enter the State.

Very truly yours, W. H. HAMPTON.
Lieutenant General,
Official: JOHN M. DAVIS, A. A. G.

News from the Army.

The rumor of reported successes of Johnston's army against Sherman's, given in our last paper has been confirmed by the arrival of a traveler and by letters received here. These give us some details and cloud our sense of satisfaction in the victory, by a mournful list of casualties, which show that our State has again suffered in the loss of many noble young men. The affair happened at Averyville, on the Neuse River, where rude breast-

walls were erected and held up to protect a first and second line of the defense, consisting of Elliott's brigade, in the first line, Elliott in command, constituting Colquitt's division. McRae's division, in the third line—the whole of this force numbering but 4,500 men. At 7 a. m. on Thursday, the 18th, our first line (Riley's) encountered the enemy, consisting of the 14th corp. (Knox's) and the 27th (Logan's) and K. Patrick's cavalry—total, 20,000. The brigades of regulars (12th artillery, 1st infantry and 1st N. C. Battalion, in all 6,500), held the first line till 3 p.m., when they were ordered back to the second line—Taliferro's division telling them "upon the field line." This was held till night. The regulars lost one third of their number. Thirty of their officers are among the killed, wounded and missing. Brigadier General Taliferro is among the missing. The fate of this most gallant and enterprising officer is unknown. The most authoritative report is to the effect that he was made prisoner. Hardie commanded his troops on the field for their last stand, and made gallant gallantry. The method of repulse of engineer will bring great shame to the corps. No man as yet is lost only of the killed and wounded among others:

Ce. Alfred Ritter, captain, or killed while reconnoitering in front of our lines on Wednesday afternoon. It is reported by the Provost Marshal at Raleigh that he was captured and paroled. Col. Wm. Butler, (who was in command on Thursday,) killed; Lieut. Col. Yates, wounded slightly in breast; Maj. Blanding, wounded dangerously in shoulder; Lieut. Warren, badly wounded, slightly in breast; Capt. Less, 3d Lieuts. Henry, Stuart, Oscar LeBorde, Ely, in Middleton, — Quartermaster and Leslie, Gt. of killed; Capt. L. Burnett, wounded in thigh dangerously; Capt. Press Smith, wounded in shoulder; Capt. Calhoun, wounded in shoulder; Capt. Warley, wounded in shoulder; Capt. James White, wounded in hand; Capt. Scott, wounded in leg; Capt. Richardson, wounded in leg and captured; Lieut. Geo. Loring, wounded in shoulder; Lieut. Delorme, in 2d Lt. Co., in leg (half); Lieut. North, wounded in shoulder; Lieut. William Martin, Lt. Brown, in leg and captured; Lt. Col. Tregay, killed.

Another fight ensued on Sunday, the 19th, when the army of Johnston (Hargrove's reserve) attacked Sherman near Benton. He and drove the Yankees until they were forced by fresh troops and made a stand, from which they were again driven, right along the road, and the enemy resorting to spade and shovel entrenching themselves.

In a letter from Gen. Johnston to his wife, he states that we captured 4,000 prisoners and three pieces of artillery. Our troops have fought as become their blood—fought as men should fight for their homes—and have inspired a decent apprehension in the marauders that the day of retribution is at hand. Our available force is repressed at 30,000 men, and reinforcements are rapidly arriving from various quarters.